### What services do home health agencies offer?

Home health agencies provide health and personal care in a person's home. Their services are used most by persons with disabilities and/or chronic illness and persons who are returning home from inpatient hospital stays. Home health care makes it possible for some people to leave the hospital so they can recover at home or stay in their own homes rather than going into a nursing home.

All home health agencies offer skilled nursing and home health aide services. They may also provide or can arrange for medical social services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, personal care services, and other therapies which can be provided safely in the home.

## What is the Home Health Hotline telephone number and how does it work?

The toll-free Wisconsin Home Health Hotline telephone number is 1-800-642-6552. Calls are taken 24 hours a day. A recorded message asks callers to leave their message on an answering machine. Callers should include:

- Their name, area code and telephone number
- Whether they are seeking information or wanting to file a complaint

Calls are returned by the next working day.

The Wisconsin Toll-Free Home Health Hotline 1-800-642-6552

Department of Health and Family Services Division of Supportive Living Bureau of Quality Assurance P.O. Box 2969 Madison, WI 53701-2969

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#### OME HEALTH CARE

#### HOTLINE

1-800-642-6552



Do you need or know someone who needs home health care?

Do you want to know what services and agencies are available in your area?

Do you have a complaint or want to know if there have been complaints about a home health agency in your area?

If your answer to any of these questions is yes, call the Wisconsin toll-free Home Health Hotline at 1-800-642-6552.

# What information can the Home Health Hotline provide?

The toll-free Home Health Hotline helps Wisconsin residents with information about:

- Local home health care agencies;
- Agency certification for Medicare and/or the Medical Assistance Program;
- Results of state inspections of agencies; and
- Complaints which have been filed against the agency within the last two years.

The Hotline may also be used to file complaints.

#### How can the Hotline help when you are choosing a home health agency?

When choosing a home health care agency, you should thoroughly check out the agency before signing any contract or agreement. The Home Health Hotline can help you choose an agency by providing you with answers to the following questions:

- Which agencies serve the county in which the person who needs care lives?
- Does the agency offer specialized services?
- Is the agency licensed by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services?
- How long has the agency been licensed?
- Have any complaints been confirmed against the agency in the past two years?
- Can the agency receive payments from Medicare or Medical Assistance?